October 23, 2006

Summary for the 10-20-06 E-Communities Steering Committee Meeting

Accomplishments

- Gained a shared understanding of the current state of available computer training and digital literacy in our area and agreed to some recommended upgrades
- Gained a shared understanding of the current state of web connectivity, access and applications and agreed to some recommended upgrades
- Agreed to a structure and logistics for two community events for receiving citizen input on how to improve our ability to be an inclusive e-community
- Agreed to a list of volunteers to help set up for the community events

Action List

what	who	when
Summarize the meeting notes	Todd	10-24-06
Send the notes to the steering committee members	Lillie	10-24-06
Make upgrades to the committee recommendations	Lillie, Larry	10-26-06
Hold a meeting to start setting up the event	Lillie	10-27-06

Next Meeting of Steering Committee:

Date:	11-17-06	Topics:	- Event Set Up
Time:	12:00 – 1:30 PM		
Place:	Maides Park		

Debrief:

Positives:		Upgrades:	
	+ Good food		- Better attendance
	+ On time, on track		- People leaving early
	+ On task		
	+ Well structured		
	+ Good reports		
	+ Agenda setting for event		

Committee Report Recommendation Upgrades
(Add to the lists created by the committees)

Web Applications

- Create some school based applications for students (Elem., H.S.)

- Create checklists for how to get online and negotiate the web

- Create a pool of free computer tech support for new web users

- Community service organizations should expand their applications (ex. DSS)

Accessibility

- ID "best practices" from other areas doing e-community type initiatives and apply to Wilmington

- Use a stratified system for doing community surveys

- Put together a plan for using schools as survey distribution points

- Expand computer availability at the library (hour, locations, equipment)

- Include the bus routes on the new GIS map system

Connectivity

- Look at the methods being used in other cities (free, public, private and partnership)

- Look for corporate sponsorship opportunities for a wireless network

Training/Digital Literacy

- Increase the number of computer training scholarships at CFCC and UNCW

- Look for grant opportunities targeted at getting more computer trainers trained

- Take advantage of organizations like the library for on site training offerings

- Create more internships at the college and university for being a community computer trainer

- Advertise and connect people to web offerings like "gcflearnfree.org" (Goodwill)

- Advertise training opportunities provided by the NHC Senior Center

- Create a directory of training options and publish and distribute to target areas

- Look for opportunities to use QENO at UNCW as a resource

Community Event Discussion

<u>What we Want to Find Out from Attendees</u>

- Is improving computer skills and ability to access and use the internet have value?

- What is going on around them in terms of internet use and what are the obstacles to being able to use it effectively?

- What could be done to improve the ability to access and use the internet effectively?

<u>Event Logistics</u>

- Hold two events, one at the Community Boys and Girls Club and one at Brigade Boys and Girls Club

- Community Boys and Girls Club event on Dec, 2 from 11:00 to 1:00PM

- Brigade Boys and Girls Club event on Nov. 28 from 5:30 to 7:30PM

- Provide pizzas, drinks and snacks at both events

- Have give-a-ways/door prizes

- Try to get some form of entertainment for each event

<u>Agenda Content Structure</u>

- Explain what the internet is and how it can impact all people
  - Show specific ways that the internet can help to get jobs
  - Show the ability to gain information
  - Explain the new goals and expectations it drives for students
  - Share the basic computer skills now expected of students

- Explain the digital divide that is occurring across the country and how it can effect everyone

- Answer questions

- Break the group out and ask about obstacles and possible solutions

- Do a demonstration of how to use internet to apply for a job, access credit reports, access information

- Discuss the resources available in the community for training, and access to computers

- Highlight resource people at the event and their resource tables in the room

- Handout the survey to the group and ask to fill out and place in a box in the back of the room

<u>Volunteer Committee to Set up Events (In addition to standing committee members)</u>

Lillie Gray	Peter Greer	Alice Sheridan	Macy McCrae.
Jennifer Griggs	Raquel Wilson	Jim Conway	Randall Johnson
Kelly McNeil			